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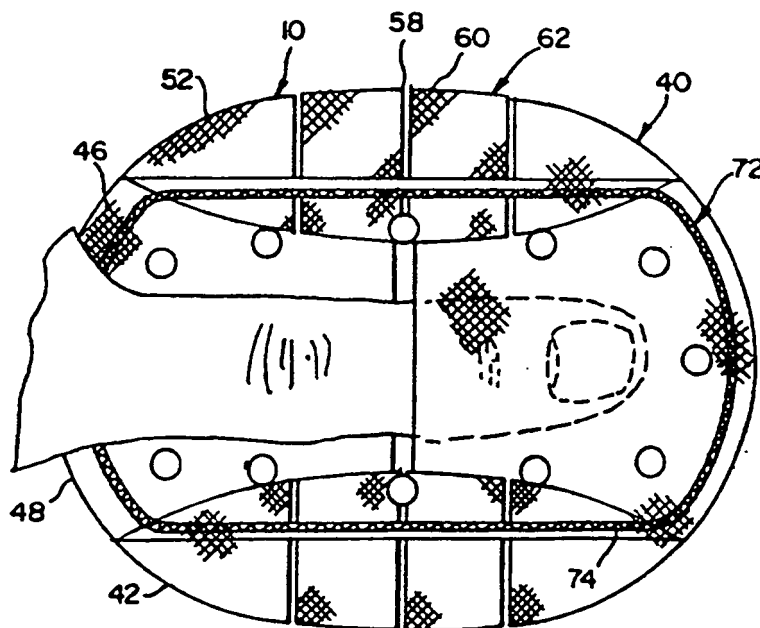
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(54) **Hernia mesh patches**

(57) Implantable hernia mesh patches (10) have double like size layers (42,44) of inert mesh material (46), with an internally positioned loop (72) of a resilient monofilament fibre. One of the layers (42,44) has a transverse slit (66) for the insertion of a surgeons finger to facilitate positioning. Also the layers (42,44) optionally have aligned holes (59) around their peripheries, inside of the resilient monofilament fibre to prevent sliding or migra-

tion. Also sutureless mesh tabs (62) are formed at spaced locations about the peripheries of the layers to retain the patch in place. Also the free edges (57) of the top layer (42) are folded back in opposite directions and sewn in place near the fold (56), while still leaving extending free sutureless mesh tabs (62). Also anchoring spikes (82) made of resilient monofilament fibre are formed about the loop (72) serving an attaching. The layers of the patch can be a "Gortex" material.

FIG. 4





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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 04 01 1608 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	EP 0 557 964 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORPORATION) 1 September 1993 (1993-09-01) * column 7, line 29 - column 8, line 4; figures * * column 4, line 25 - line 56 * -----	1,11	A61F2/00
A	US 5 258 000 A (GIANTURCO ET AL) 2 November 1993 (1993-11-02) * column 6, line 44 - line 62; figures * -----	1,11	
A	US 5 254 133 A (SEID ET AL) 19 October 1993 (1993-10-19) * column 8, line 19 - line 28; figures * -----	1,11	
A	WO 92/13500 A (SURGICAL INNOVATIONS, INC) 20 August 1992 (1992-08-20) * abstract; figures * -----	1,11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61F
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims. Claims searched completely : Claims searched incompletely : Claims not searched : Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		20 December 2005	Neumann, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number
EP 04 01 1608

Claim(s) searched completely:
1-26,33

Claim(s) not searched:
27-32

Reason for the limitation of the search (non-patentable invention(s)):

Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 01 1608

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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20-12-2005

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